

**FILED**

**JUN 30 2008**

**Clerk, U.S. District and  
Bankruptcy Courts**

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**

**DONNA A. RIDLEY RAMRATTAN,** )

**Plaintiff,** )

**v.** )

**PETER A. CHAPIN,** )

**Defendant.** )

**Civil Action No. 08 1147**

**MEMORANDUM OPINION**

This matter comes before the Court on consideration of plaintiff's *pro se* complaint and application to proceed *in forma pauperis*. The Court will grant the application, and dismiss the complaint for lack of jurisdiction.

Unlike state courts of general jurisdiction, federal district courts have limited jurisdiction. A federal district court has jurisdiction in civil actions arising under the Constitution, laws or treaties of the United States. *See* 28 U.S.C. § 1331. Here, however, the complaint refers to plaintiff's dissatisfaction with her lawyer in a class action suit, which is not a claim that arises under the Constitution or the laws or treaties of the United States. A federal district court also has jurisdiction over civil actions in matters where the controversy exceeds \$75,000 and is between citizens of different states. *See* 28 U.S.C. § 1332(a). But here it appears that both parties are citizens of the District of Columbia, and the plaintiff does not identify an amount in controversy, unless it is the \$30,000 settlement amount she seeks.

Accordingly, the Court will dismiss the complaint, without prejudice, for lack of subject matter jurisdiction. An appropriate order accompanies this memorandum opinion.

Date:

*June 25, 2008*

*Richard M. Surine*  
United States District Judge